

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
to the  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DEBEN  
for the year 1944.

Mr. C hairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith my Report for the year 1944, on the lines  
indicated by the Ministry of Health

STATISTICS.

Population The figures supplied by the Registrar-General  
give an estimated mid year population of 23,090.  
(This is an increase of 450 on the figures for  
1943, viz. 22,640)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	357	194	163
Illegitimate	54	24	30

This gives a Birth Rate, per 1,000 population, of 17.8.  
(England and Wales 17.6).

<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	8	3	5
Illegitimate	2	1	1

This gives a Still Birth Rate, per 1,000 population of 0.4  
(England and Wales 0.5).

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	295	160	135

The Crude Death Rate is therefore <sup>12.8</sup>~~17.8~~ per 1,000 population.  
(England and Wales 11.6).

<u>DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Births</u>	
Puerperal Sepsis	1	2.4
Other Puerperal Causes	1	2.4

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	38.9 (England & Wales 46)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	39.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	37
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	43
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are all administered by the County Council.

## INFESTATION.

Infestation by vermin, e.g. lice, etc., is met by

- (a) the regular examination and cleansing of children by the School Nurses
- (b) hospitalisation of adults and children under school age when required.

Fumigation of premises, supply of soap and insecticides, and where requested, steam disinfection, incineration of bedding, etc. are other adjuncts to personal cleansing. During the year under review no cases were presented for such treatment.

Infestation by scabies mites has decreased all round, so that the very few cases reported were dealt with at home either by the District Nurse or the householder under supervision, benzylbenzoate emulsion being used in all cases, with good results.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The District is supplied through public water mains in 31 of the 64 parishes, the remaining 33 parishes depending upon wells in the crag sand or the deeper chalk strata.

1. During 1944, despite a period of relative drought, there was no falling off either in quality or quantity of the water supply, public or private.
2. The Deben Water Scheme, in two zones, covers 21 parishes, the water being pumped to two water towers. One source is from surface springs, the other is from two deep bores.

The remaining 10 parishes on mains supply, are served as follows:-

Woodbridge Waterworks Company	- 1 Parish
Felixstowe Waterworks Company	- 7 Parishes
Ipswich Corporation Waterworks	- 2 Parishes

During the year one sample taken at source and two others at points on the supply line were satisfactory, chemically and bacteriologically.

3. No evidence of pollution was found in piped supplies, pollution of private supplies, e.g. wells, bores, etc., was met by instructions as to cleansing of the well, etc., and sterilisation in the home.

- |    |                                     |   |        |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| 4. | No. of inhabited houses in 1944     | = | 7,379  |
|    | Population (Registrar-General)      | = | 23,090 |
|    | Average number of persons per house | = | 3      |

Dwelling-houses supplied by mains water by Deben R.D.C.

- |  |      |          |
|--|------|----------|
| (a) direct to houses                   | 1209 | i.e. 16% |
| (b) by stand-pipes to groups of houses | 435  | i.e. 6%  |

Figures for the other parishes supplied by other Authorities than Deben are uncertain so that an approximate figure for the whole Deben area would be:-

- |         |
|---------|
| (a) 20% |
| (b) 9%  |

Proportion of population supplied by piped water, on parallel lines to the above approximation, might be taken as:-

- |                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) by Direct supply by main to house | 16% |
| (b) by stand-pipe to groups of houses | 10% |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1944.

Disease.	Total noti- fied	Age Group													Ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Tot- al Deaths
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 up			
Scarlet Fever	17	-	-	-	2	-	9	1	3	1	1	-	-	9	Nil	
Diphtheria	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	Nil	
Whooping-cough	27	2	2	4	5	3	9	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	Nil	
Measles	16	1	-	1	3	1	4	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	Nil	
Ant.polomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Nil	
Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	Nil	
Paratyphoid Fever	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	Nil	
Pneumonia	51	12	4	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	7	8	13	2	10	
Dysentery	29	1	2	1	2	2	8	2	1	7	3	-	-	3	Nil	
Erysipelas	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	11	-	-	Nil	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Nil	
Malaria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	Nil	

None of the infectious diseases reached epidemic proportions during the year. The cases of dysentery were limited to three parishes - one having two thirds of the total number notified; the other two having traceable contacts with the original. Three cases occurred amongst the military stationed in the area.

Sixteen cases of Infectious Jaundice were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Six cases were notified, only one being that of a child under 15 years of age who had actually completed a course of immunisation. Three others were not diphtheria on final diagnosis and 2 others occurred amongst the military.

Anti-diphtheria immunisation was continued as in previous years - the figures being as follows:-

	Under 5 years.	5-15 years.
No. immunised during 1944	163	19
Estimated proportion of child population protected by end of 1944	86%	90%

TUBERCULOSIS. An analysis of the year's figures is appended.

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
20	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
25	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 up	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1

In addition to the above total of new cases notified there were 3 cases of which information was got otherwise than by notification, viz. from Death Returns, i.e. 89% of new cases were actually brought to the notice of this Department by notification before death.

During 1944 there were 14 cases removed from the Tuberculosis Register for reasons tabulated below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Diagnosis not established	-	-	-	1	1
Removed to other districts	2	2	-	1	5
Cured	1	1	2	4	8
Cases of Tuberculosis coming into the area from other districts	1	2	1	2	6

Other Public Health matters and statistics are held over for the Post-war Survey Report.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES M. WHITEFORD.  
Medical Officer of Health.